

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing audio conferencing services to users of an on-line text messaging service connected for text messaging over a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a on-line text messaging client to set up a conference call;

allocating a telephone number and access code for the conference;

providing said telephone number and access code to selected users and instructing the selected users to call the telephone number using a telephone network and enter the access code; and

receiving telephone calls from users and identifying them by the access codes they enter and joining the users in an audio conference.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the users choose a billing option when they call said telephone numbers.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the users do not reveal personal information to other users.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the access codes are spontaneously generated.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising alternatively locking and unlocking an audio conference to prevent or allow additional callers to join an audio conference.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving comprises providing a button on the display of and wherein in response to one user clicking the button, dialing out to the other selected users.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the telephone number and identification code comprising displaying same on the computer screen of each selected user.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the audio conferencing service is operative at the same time as the text messaging service.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing comprises sending the telephone number and identification code via email.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing comprises returning the telephone number and access code to the selected users.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing comprises displaying the telephone number and access code on the display of the selected users.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the on-line text messaging client comprises one of a chat client, an instant messaging client, and an on-line tool.

13. A system for providing audio conferencing services to users of an on-line text messaging service connected for text messaging over a computer network, comprising:

a server for receiving a request from a on-line text messaging client to set up a conference call; and

a conferencing platform for allocating a telephone number and access code to access the conferencing platform, the server providing said telephone number and access code to selected users and instructing the selected users to call the telephone number using a telephone network and enter the access code; and

wherein the conferencing platform receives telephone calls from users and identifies them by the access codes they enter and joins the users in an audio conference.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the users choose a billing option when they call said telephone numbers.

15. The system according to claim 13, wherein the users do not reveal personal information to other users.

16. The system according to claim 13, wherein the access codes are spontaneously generated.

17. The system according to claim 13, further comprising the conferencing platform alternatively locking

and unlocking an audio conference to prevent or allow additional callers to join an audio conference.

18. The system according to claim 13, wherein the server provides a button on the display of and wherein in response to one user clicking the button, the conferencing platform dials out to the other selected users.

19. The system according to claim 13, wherein the server provides the telephone number and identification code by displaying same on the computer screen of each selected user.

20. The system according to claim 13, wherein the audio conferencing service is operative at the same time as the text messaging service.

21. The system according to claim 13, wherein the server provides the telephone number and access code by sending the telephone number and identification code via email.

22. The system according to claim 13, wherein the server returns the telephone number and access code to the selected users.

23. The system according to claim 13, wherein the server displays the telephone number and access code on the display of the selected users.

24. The system according to claim 13, wherein the on-line text messaging client comprises one of a chat client, an instant messaging client, and an on-line tool.